

First Time On-orbit Calibration of the Japanese Earth Resources
Satellite-1 Optical Sensor Using the Airborne Visible-Infrared
Imaging Spectrometer-1992

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The Japanese Earth Resources Satellite-1 (JERS-1) that carries an optical sensor (OPS) was launched in early 1992. OPS has 8 channels ranging in width from 60 to 130 nm in the spectral region from 400 to 2500 nm with a ~ 5 km swath and 20 m spatial resolution. On-orbit calibration of this sensor is required to retrieve geophysical parameters of the earth's surface. Furthermore, calibration is required for comparison of JERS-1 OPS derived parameters from region to region and from time as well as for analysis of JERS-1 OPS data with measurements acquired with other spaceborne, airborne and surface instruments.

The Airborne Visible-Infrared Imaging Spectrometer-1992 (AVIRIS-92) is a NASA-sponsored Earth-looking imaging spectrometer designed, built, and operated by the Jet Propulsion Laboratory. This imaging spectrometer measures the total upwelling spectral radiance from 400 to 2500 nm in the electromagnetic spectrum through 224 channels at 10 nm spectral intervals. Data are acquired as 11 km by up to 100 km images with 20 m by 20 m spatial resolution.

On August 27th, October 6th and October 9th calibration experiments were carried out under clear sky conditions at Rogers Dry Lake, Ivanpah Playa, California and Lunar Lake, Nevada, respectively. A radiance-based calibration of the 32,768 detectors of the JERS-1 OPS sensor for these three dates was carried out using AVIRIS-92 as a calibrated spectral radiometer. The flight path of AVIRIS-92 for each site was orthogonal to the JERS-1 Ground track. Each AVIRIS-92 flight line contained a uniform dry lake calibration target and extended 100 km in length to encompass the full JERS-1 OPS cross-track swath. To limit the effects from time-variable atmospheric transmittance, the time of the AVIRIS-92 overpass was synchronized with that of the JERS-1 data acquisition. A reflectance-based inflight calibration of AVIRIS-92 was implemented using the dry playa lake targets and simultaneous atmospheric and surface measurements in conjunction with the MODTRAN 2a radiative transfer code. The calibration results as well as the random and systematic errors associated with this novel satellite calibration procedure using AVIRIS-92 will be described and evaluated.